



Meet the Scientist!



Dr. Moriarty is a trained professional. The animal pictured was not injured and was released back into the wild. Never handle or approach wild animals.

A wildlife biologist studies living organisms such as birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Wildlife biologists also study wildlife habitats, life histories, population changes, and movement.

Dr. Katie Moriarty
Research Wildlife Biologist
Ph.D., Oregon State University
USDA Forest Service scientist



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Important Scientist Characteristics:

Curiosity, skepticism, enthusiasm, and creativity are the most important traits I have to contribute to my research.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:

How are martens affected by the removal of living and dead plants? How can we connect healthy forests for marten habitat? Martens are small forest carnivores that live in dense, mature mountain forests. Martens are sensitive to activities that open the forest canopy or remove dead plants. Sometimes, in the hopes of reducing fires, managers remove many living and dead plants in marten habitat. We want to know the effects of these actions on martens.

Technology or equipment used in research:

We are using the world's smallest Global Positioning System (GPS) collars for mammals. These GPS collars document marten and fisher movement patterns. GPS collars can allow for short-term tracking, because they collect data every five minutes.

Most Exciting Discovery

In 2008, my team and I documented the first wolverine seen in California in 86 years. We were conducting remote camera surveys for martens, but captured images of a wolverine. We use the remote cameras as a tool to detect rare carnivores.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

I started volunteering for the Forest Service in 6th grade. Eventually I got a job with the Forest Service. I have continued helping with surveys in the natural resource fields ever since.

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